

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 1.

- #1
1. (Amended) A permutation switch for switching wavelength-division multiplexed signals received from one or more optical waveguides, comprising:
- (a) a substrate having at least one surface;
 - (b) a single-mode to multi-mode backward coupler, coupled to said surface of said substrate, for receiving single-mode wavelength division multiplexed signals from said one or more optical waveguides, and for backward coupling said signals into a plurality of single-mode signals, each having its own unique mode.